

NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

BUSINESS MEETING OF COUNCIL

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2016

Mayor Fraim called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. with the following members present: Ms. Graves, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Protogyrou, Mr. Riddick, Mr. Smigiel, Dr. Whibley and Mr. Winn.

He thereupon called for the first item of business.

A. COUNCIL INTERESTS

1. Councilman Protogyrou asked: 1) about funding for a women's locker room at the Senior Center and 2) to add more handicap parking spaces and outdoor gym equipment.
2. Councilman Riddick asked: **1)** for a status report on construction at Chapel Street and Tidewater Drive, **2)** what precautions are in place to recognize if our water supply has been contaminated and, if so, how to treat it, and **3)** thanked Chief Wise and the Fire Department on how they responded to the recent fire in Ocean View. In addition, Mayor Fraim suggested that we communicate to our citizens about the working agreement we have with our sister cities.
3. Councilman Winn forwarded an email from Acclaimed Events to the City Manager concerning the use of Norfolk companies for events, and asked: **1)** that appropriate staff communicate to citizens why their HRUBS bills fluctuate and to provide adjustments where appropriate, **2)** where another public boat launch can be located in Ocean View, and **3)** commented that the Animal Care Center facility needs improvements as well as more staffing and he asked to start planning for them in this year's budget and future budgets
4. Councilwoman Whibley: **1)** commented on the recent editorial in the Virginian-Pilot concerning the state funding for Norfolk's storm water needs being removed and asked how to prevent that from happening, and asked **2)** for an update on the arts programs and their rent delinquencies, and **3)** for an update on high-speed internet service.

5. Councilwoman Johnson: **1)** reiterated an earlier request to provide two crosswalks on Princess Anne Road by the Franklin Arms Apartments and asked **2)** for speed enforcement on Princess Anne Road east of Tidewater Drive in the vicinity of the new school, and **3)** that appropriate staff investigate complaints of bed bugs at Braywood Manor Apartments.
6. Vice-Mayor Graves: **1)** commented that renovation work has stopped on a house on Middle Avenue and the neighbors are being impacted. She asked what legal action can be taken against the owner, and asked: **2)** the Administration to caution employees who drive city vehicles not to leave valuables in the car, **3)** for a clarification on how bonuses are taxed and if they go towards retirement and social security, and **4)** how employees with no access to city computers can access their payroll and compensation information.
7. Councilman Smigiel asked: **1)** that appropriate staff investigate disconnected utility wires hanging from utility poles along Ocean View Avenue, and **2)** reported on a recent parking situation after a Norfolk Public Schools event at Nauticus where attendees were told that parking would be \$2.50 but some were charged \$12.50. He added that a family was verbally abused by a parking employee and asked **3)** the Administration to investigate the matter, **4)** to create a better traffic pattern at the area of the East Beach Shops where water and sewer lines are being replaced, and **5)** he noted that access to those businesses has been cut off, and **6)** with regard to the landscaping maintained by business owners, he suggested an annual inspection to ensure that landscaping is being maintained and replaced if needed, and **7)** reiterated an earlier request to consider creating a Sign Task Force. Suggested scheduling a joint meeting with the City Planning Commission.
8. Mayor Fraim asked: **1)** for update regarding street sweeping and landscaping crews, and **2)** regarding the proposed expansion of Sentara Norfolk General, he asked for a report on the assets of the medical center complex and to reactivate the Medical Center Planning Committee

B. ELEGANT OCCASIONS

George Homewood, Director of City Planning, reported as follows:

In 2004, the City of Norfolk agreed to participate in a Joint Land Use Study along with the Office of Economic Adjustment of the Department of Defense, the City of Virginia Beach, the City of Chesapeake and the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission. The goals of the study were to focus on the safety and welfare of Norfolk citizens and to provide recommendations to ensure compatible development in accident potential (APZ) and high noise

zones. The study was completed in 2005 and the City Council approved the final report by resolution in May 2005. *plaNorfolk2030*, which was adopted in May 2013, reaffirmed Norfolk's role in the JLUS.

Captain Douglas J. Beaver, Commanding Officer, Naval Station Norfolk, reported as follows:

Captain Beaver provided background information regarding compatible use zones (ACUZ) in the 2005 JLUS. The program was instituted by the Department of Defense in 1970 to address the problem of land development surrounding military air installations. The final Hampton Roads JLUS Report was endorsed in April 2005 and is updated periodically. The ACUZ was incorporated in *plaNorfolk 2030* and the Norfolk Zoning Ordinance.

The Navy does not support the Special Exception application by Elegant Occasions for a banquet hall at 9605 Granby Street because it would be located within the noise zone northeast of Chambers Field and directly underneath a major departure corridor within the accident potential zone 2. The City Planning staff and the City Planning Commission both view the Special Exception request as an increased development at this site and an unnecessary encroachment upon Navy Operations and recommend denial.

In closing, Captain Beaver stressed that the Navy and the City of Norfolk have a great relationship built on respect and trust. The Navy looks forward to continuing that relationship while working through this issue and any others that arise.

Councilman Smigiel commented that there are a lot of inconsistencies and a real disconnect with how some business owners are treated. He cited an example: Four years ago a developer proposed 385 apartments on 2nd Bay Street that was ten stories high and he was given permission by the Navy to develop the project. He added that there are grandfathered businesses that sponsor events where many citizens are in attendance. Another example is the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade where thousands of citizens are present. Mayor Fraim stated that if the Navy starts to discern a pattern of development or "creeping encroachment" towards their installation, they could decide to relocate their entire operation. Councilman Riddick added that this application is not new development and that this building has been in that location for a long period of time.

C. CLOSED SESSION

Motion for closed session was approved for purposes which are set out in **Clause 3 of subsection (A) of Section 2.2-3711 of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act**, as amended:

- (3) Discussion of the disposition of publicly owned real property in the area in the downtown area.

Yes: Graves, Johnson, Protogyrou, Riddick, Smigiel, Whibley, Winn and Fraim.

No: None.

D. GREATER ST. PAUL'S REVITALIZATION AREA

Peter Chapman, Deputy City Manager, reported as follows:

Mr. Chapman presented a map showing the proposed boundaries of the Greater St. Paul's Revitalization Area. At present there are no housing developments or businesses within the boundaries. There is an existing fire station, HRT transfer center, and a building that will be demolished as part of the St. Paul's Apartments project.

The vision for the area emphasizes the importance of building mixed-income communities replete with market rate and affordable housing options and amenities as well as commercial job generating activities. This process of designating a revitalization area is really driven by state statute and the Virginia Housing and Development Authority policy.

There had been some confusion about what a revitalization area is versus a redevelopment and conservation area. After further study and working closely with Councilman Riddick, they came up with boundaries that would accomplish two things: It would capture the proposed site for the St. Paul's Apartments project and also capture other parcels thereby allowing us to communicate to Virginia Housing and Development Authority that we have a true revitalization area rather than just a site specific plan. The Virginia Housing and Development Authority provides more favorable financing terms for projects that are located in designated revitalization areas.

Mr. Chapman added that they have consulted with individual and institutional stakeholders in the area; particularly faith-based organizations and civic associations. Councilwoman Johnson stressed that as we move forward with future planning for the St. Paul's quadrant to make sure all stakeholders are included.

E. GREATER ST. PAUL'S REVITALIZATION AREA

Chuck Rigney, Director of Development, reported as follows:

The purchase of the J. C. Penney building represents a longer-term strategy while future development for the entire corridor is contemplated. Negotiations continue for an operations center which will have 650 employees to start and another 250 employees within the next two years. This will reenergize the site, bringing vitality to the Military Circle area while longer-range plans are formulated. This investment is a part of a strategic plan to ensure that the city will be a part of future development in this area. This is also an opportunity to create an asset for the Economic Development Authority and it will generate income and tax revenue.

F. PH-5 AND PH-6: J. C. PENNEY BUILDING

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G. COSTAL CHARACTER DISTRICT

George Homewood, Director of City Planning, reported as follows:

There are three character districts in the city: downtown, traditional and suburban. When developing *plaNorfolk 2030*, East Beach had been originally designated as traditional. Moving through the adoption process they realized that was not appropriate for East Beach; therefore, the City Planning Commission recommends creating a fourth character district along the coast. The coastal character district will be added to *plaNorfolk 2030* and the Zoning Ordinance.